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Title 300 – Land Treatment Programs

**Part IA384 – State Water Quality Initiative  
Management Practice Guidance**

July 2025

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### **IA384.0 Purpose**

This Iowa instruction provides additional guidance on the process to provide conservation technical consultation to implement the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) Water Quality Initiative (WQI).

### **IA384.2 References**

440 M 525.20 Conservation Technical Consultation (Amend. 71, September 2010)

### **IA384.3 Background**

Iowa NRCS has agreed to verify the completion of cover crops, no-till/strip-till, and nitrification inhibitor practices for the WQI cost-share program. This decision supports our conservation partner, facilitates the adoption of these management practices, and captures partner conservation progress for national goals.

### **IA384.4 Roles and Responsibilities**

- A. NRCS, in cooperation with other field office staff, will provide “Conservation Technical Consultation” for these WQI management practices, as outlined in 440-CPM, Part 525, Subpart C, Section 525.20(F). This technical assistance will be provided through the following actions, as requested by the IDALS Conservation Assistant:
  - 1. Field office staff will provide appropriate implementation requirements (IR) to producers. Signatures by producer and planner are optional.
    - a. Iowa Cover Crop IR.
    - b. Iowa Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till Job Sheet/IR.
  - 2. Field office staff will review seeding rates, dates, invoices and submitted documentation to verify if the cover crop meets specifications.
  - 3. Field office staff will visually inspect the field to verify Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till after the crop has been planted.
  - 4. NRCS may assist with verification of nitrification inhibitors, although this alone does not meet an NRCS conservation practice standard.

5. NRCS staff signature
  - a. Digital: Staff will use FARMS E-Sign and add the word “Verification” after their name on the signature line.
  - b. Paper: Staff will sign their name and circle “Verification” on the FARMS Certification/Verification Page.

### **IA384.5 Additional Guidance**

- A. NRCS and IDALS both recognize the benefits of capturing conservation progress, even though “Conservation Technical Consultation” does not require NRCS to develop a conservation plan or meet minimum practice reporting requirements. To help ensure conservation progress reporting is being captured, field office staff should follow these key steps:
  1. Field office staff should complete an environmental evaluation (e.g., CPA-52) and enter practices into Conservation Desktop (CD) as planned and applied. To streamline the process, a template CPA-52 for cover crops and/or no-till on cropland has been provided for office use.
  2. No additional planning steps or signed Conservation Plan (e.g., practice schedule) are required. CART data entry is also not needed.

### **IA384.6 Exhibits**

- A. Iowa Cover Crop IR
- B. Iowa Residue and Tillage Management Job Sheet/IR
- C. Template NRCS CPA-52 for 329 and 340